

Lesson 2: Kia orāna – Hi, hello

17/10/2012 Wednesday



❖ Tangi: Kia orāna

- ❖ Today we are going to launch into our first Cook Island Māori word for Term 4. But before we do, we still have a couple of important language and cultural rules to share with you.
 - ✚ The first of these is that, when talking about the Cook Islands, indigenous Cook Islanders may refer to themselves and the people who live there with the colloquial expression “the Cooks”. This is not deemed insensitive or derogatory.
 - ✚ Cook Islands people live in widely scattered islands and there are variations in the language and in the culture from island to island.
 - ✚ Saying “Kia orāna” and “Aere rà” are appropriate ways to greet and farewell people in most social situations.

❖ Rina: Introducing people

- ✚ In a Cook Islands setting, most people know all the local families and everyone in them, thus Cook Islands people do not generally introduce or talk about themselves, similarly
- ✚ Cook Islands children are very sensitive about and often very reluctant to talk with a focus on themselves.

❖ Gaylene: Expressing one’s feelings in Cook Islands culture

- ✚ Feelings are often quite openly shown within Cook Islands families. They talk it all out, and then they can start afresh.
- ✚ You’ll quite often see children being hugged by their parents – sometimes quite big boys or girls of twelve or thirteen.
- ✚ If you’re sitting with a group of Cook Islanders, you can often read signs to get the feeling of the people there. Pleasure is

usually shown by nodding, smiling, or laughing. But if you see someone half-turning their back towards a speaker, you'll know that person is snubbing the speaker.

- Someone who's rolling their eyes upwards or setting their mouth immovably is showing they're angry, and anyone who's continually mumbling and moving about as though sitting on a pin is showing displeasure.

❖ Leigh Leigh:

- Absolute silence usually indicates annoyance.
- If you're talking to someone and they raise their eyebrows, you know they're agreeing with you – "Yes, I did visit Tere yesterday."
- The fleetingly furrowed brow means, "I really don't know."
- The silent hand on the shoulder indicates, "Hullo, nice to see you here," and
- The raised eyebrow, "Good to see you again."
- If you see a child hand-signalling or making head movements, it can mean. "Over here. I need your help."



❖ Sharleen: Now for our first Cook Island word which is the common greeting **Kia oràna**

- Say after me –
 - Kia oràna**
- When greeting our Principal you would say
 - Kia oràna e te Pù'àpi'i ma'ata**
- Say after me –
 - Kia oràna e te Pù'àpi'i ma'ata**